



SOUTH AMERICA: In central Argentina, light to moderate rain (10-25 mm) fell across southern Santa Fe, Entre Rios, and eastern and southern Buenos Aires, increasing topsoil moisture for vegetative winter wheat and early summer crop planting. In Cordoba and the northwestern crop areas of Salta, Jujuy, Tucuman, and Santiago del Estero, mostly dry weather limited topsoil moisture for wheat development. These regions have received less than 35 percent of normal rainfall during the past 4 weeks. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C above normal across central Argentina, with the lowest temperatures ranging from 0 to 2 degrees C confined to southern Buenos Aires. In southern Brazil, widespread showers (25-100 mm) covered Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and southern Parana, increasing soil moisture supplies. The heaviest amounts (150 to 200 mm) were reported in south-central Rio Grande do Sul. The rainfall, however, slowed winter wheat maturation and harvesting, and possibly reduced wheat quality. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal across southern Brazil. According to reports as of September 20, Brazilian winter wheat was 11 percent harvested, compared with 34 percent on average. Harvesting was nearing completion in Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso do Sul, but has not yet started in Rio Grande do Sul. In Parana, harvesting was 13 percent, complete compared with 49 percent on average.